



countdown

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Booster stacking begins for Atlantis launch



◆ Shuttle Update:

While Discovery is on the launch pad, space shuttle Atlantis is being prepared for the next mission, STS-125. On

Friday, stacking of the solid rocket booster segments for Atlantis will begin.

◆ **NASA Update:** NASA has scheduled a media briefing at 11 a.m. May 13 to discuss the challenges, risks and science opportunities of the scheduled May 25 landing of the Phoenix Mars Lander. Officials also will provide details on the Phoenix landing site. The briefing will be carried live on NASA Television and on the Web.



Phoenix is expected to conduct a three-month mission studying a northern arctic site on the Red Planet. Phoenix will dig down to an ice-rich layer expected to lie within arm's reach of the surface of Mars. It will analyze the water and soil for evidence about climate cycles and investigate if the environment there has ever been favorable for microbial life.

Participants will be Ed Weiler, associate administrator of the Science Mission Directorate; Doug McCuiston,

director of the Mars Exploration Program; Peter Smith, Phoenix principal investigator at the University of Arizona in Tucson; Ray Arvidson, chairman of the Phoenix landing site working group at Washington University in St. Louis; and Barry Goldstein, Phoenix project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

■ **A Salute To "Differently Abled" Heroes** — NASA will present The Walter Reed Experience from 10 to 11:30 a.m. May 15 in the KSC Training Auditorium. This is a dynamic and uplifting program recognizing the advancement of prosthetics that provide new "high tech" limbs for amputees and the achievements of veterans and active-duty personnel. NASA has contributed significantly in the advancement of this technology.

Dennis Clark, president of Point Health Systems, will be the keynote speaker at the event. Clark will share a riveting, first-hand account of care-planning strategies and treatment for returning wounded veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. Come hear their amazing stories of courage and success in the face of tremendous personal sacrifice.

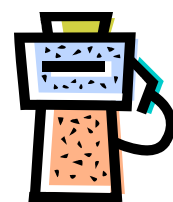
■ **Did You Know?** Before Mother's Day was established in the U.S., there was an earlier recognition aimed at mothers. According to the Farmer's Almanac, in 16th-century England, a celebration called "Mothering Sunday" was inaugurated — a Sunday set aside for visiting your mother. The eldest son or daughter would bring a "mothering cake," which would be shared by the entire family. Family reunions were the order of the

NASA to air Phoenix Mars Lander mission goals

day, with sons and daughters assuming all household duties and preparing a special dinner in honor of their mother. Sunday is the U.S. celebration.

■ Fuel-Saving Tips To Note —

- Clean air filters can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.
- Properly inflated and aligned tires will improve gas mileage by 3 percent.
- Using the correct grade of oil can increase gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



Implementing these tips can save you up to 48 percent on fuel costs -- a direct saving to you and a direct saving on energy consumption. Fuel economy reduces greenhouse gasses released in the Earth's atmosphere.

■ **NASA Science** — In September 1859, the sun unleashed a solar flare so intense it was visible to the unaided human eye. A ferocious geomagnetic storm ensued in which Northern Lights descended as far south as Cuba, the Bahamas and Hawaii. Could it happen again? You can read the full story at:

http://science.nasa.gov/healines/y2008/06may_carringtonflare.htm?list947891.

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